

Amendments to the Drawings

In FIG. 2: (1) block 206 has been revised to read “CONSTRUCT DIRECTORY TO A SPARSE DIRECTORY STRUCTURE”, and (2) block 216 has been revised to read “CONSTRUCT DIRECTORY TO A FULLY POPULATED DIRECTORY STRUCTURE”

Attachments: Annotated Sheet
Replacement Sheet

Remarks

Claims 6, 10, 11, 20, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced with new claims 29-33 solely in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the allowable subject matter of the present embodiments. These amendments do not introduce new matter, are not narrowing in view of a rejection over a cited reference, and more particularly set forth the subject matter regarded as the invention by the Applicant.

Support for new claim 29 can be found at least in para. [0022] (“a fully populated directory has a fixed size...”) and in para. [0023] (“As the number of data entries increase...”).

Support for new claim 30 can be found at least in para. [0044] (“For every independently addressable data space within the data container, there is a directory entry 510 in a bottom level map.”)

Support for new claim 31 can be found at least in para. [0037] (“The data structure 300 is designed so that individual entries 310 do not need to be allocated for every available data block in the container.”)

Support for new claim 32 can be found at least in block 212 of FIG. 2 and the description thereof.

Support for new claim 33 can be found at least in para. [0024] (“Further, the controller 102 may be capable of converting a directory created using a fully populated directory structure into a sparsely filled directory structure if such a change is warranted.”)

Rejection Under Section 102(e)

Claims 1-11 and 16-28 stand rejected as being anticipated by pending application

Abrashkevich '120. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

The Examiner has failed to substantiate a *prima facie* case of anticipation by not making an evidentiary showing that Abrashkevich '120 identically discloses all the recited features of claim 1, which include at least the following:

A method of maintaining a directory for a data container comprising...reconstructing said sparse directory structure into a fully populated directory structure.
(excerpt of claim 1, emphasis added)

The Examiner combined the notions that Abrashkevich '120 discloses dynamic management (para. [0002]) with the heap header (para. [0037]) to allege that it anticipates the *sparse directory structure* and the *fully populated directory structure* of the present embodiments as claimed. The Examiner appears to be implying, without saying so, that either due to dynamic memory management or due to the heap header at various times containing a different amount of data, that somehow Abrashkevich '120 discloses constructing two directory structures. The skilled artisan recognizes this as clearly being erroneous as a misplaced characterization of Abrashkevich '120, which only discloses one structure for the heap header.

The Examiner has not substantiated a *prima facie* case of anticipation because Abrashkevich '120 does not identically disclose both a *sparse directory structure* and a *fully populated directory structure* as recited by the language of claim 1. The Examiner's claim construction is unreasonably broad because it ignores the plain meaning of these recited phrases, and in effect ignores claim language. *In re Morris*, 43 USPQ2d 1753 (Fed. Cir. 1997) Furthermore, the examination resulting in this claim construction is incomplete

according to the Examiner's obligation to consider the patentability of the invention as claimed. 37 CFR 1.104(a) Accordingly, any further rejection of claim 1 cannot properly be made final.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

Claim 16

The Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation by not making an evidentiary showing that Abrashkevich '120 identically discloses all the recited features of claim 1, which include at least the following:

*A data storage system comprising...a controller
that...reconstructs said sparse directory structure into a
fully populated directory structure.*
(excerpt of claim 16, emphasis added)

For the same reasons discussed above, the Examiner has not substantiated a prima facie case of anticipation because Abrashkevich '120 does not identically disclose both a *sparse directory structure* and a *fully populated directory structure* as recited by the language of claim 16. The Examiner's claim construction is unreasonably broad because it ignores the plain meaning of these recited phrases, and in effect ignores claim language. *In re Morris*, 43 USPQ2d 1753 (Fed. Cir. 1997) Furthermore, the examination resulting in this claim construction is incomplete according to the Examiner's obligation to consider the patentability of the invention as claimed. 37 CFR 1.104(a) Accordingly, any further rejection of claim 16 cannot properly be made final.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 and the claims depending therefrom.

New Claims

New independent claim 29 is allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as discussed above, in that no art of record identically discloses or makes obvious the selective use of both a *sparse directory structure* and a *fully populated directory structure* as in the present embodiments as claimed. Furthermore, new claim 29 more particularly points out and distinctly claims the *sparse directory structure characterized as a linked list* and the *fully populated directory structure characterized as an array*. Abrashkevich '120, for example, discloses the one structure, the heap header, as being a linked list (para. [0037]). Claims 30-33 are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim and providing additional limitations thereto. Passage of these claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

This is a complete response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests passage of all pending claims to issuance.
Applicant has also submitted herewith a request for telephone interview, should this Amendment not be successful in obviating the rejection. The interview is necessary to facilitate progress on the merits where the unsubstantiated anticipatory rejection in the first action has already caused unnecessary delays preventing the issuance of Applicant's valuable patent rights.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Attorneys listed below should any questions arise concerning this response or request for interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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APR 13 2006

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10 /658,982
Examiner: Horace L. FlournoyFirst Named Applicant: Clark E. Lubbers
Art Unit: 2189 Status of Application: Pending

Tentative Participants:

(1) Examiner Flournoy (2) Mitchell K. McCarthy
 (3) _____ (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: To be determined by Examiner
after consideration of amendment. Proposed Time: _____ (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) [x] Telephonic (2) [] Personal (3) [] Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: [] YES [x] NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) Rej.	1	_____	[]	[]	[]
(2) Rej.	16	_____	[]	[]	[]
(3) New	29	_____	[]	[]	[]
(4) _____	_____	_____	[]	[]	[]
[] Continuation Sheet Attached					

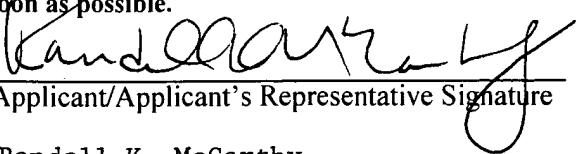
Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

Prior art does not disclose different directory structures.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.


 Randall K. McCarthy
 Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

Examiner/SPE Signature

Randall K. McCarthy
Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

39,297

Registration Number, if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



Application No. 10/658,982
Office Action mailed January 13, 2006
Response to Office Action filed April 13, 2006
Annotated Sheet

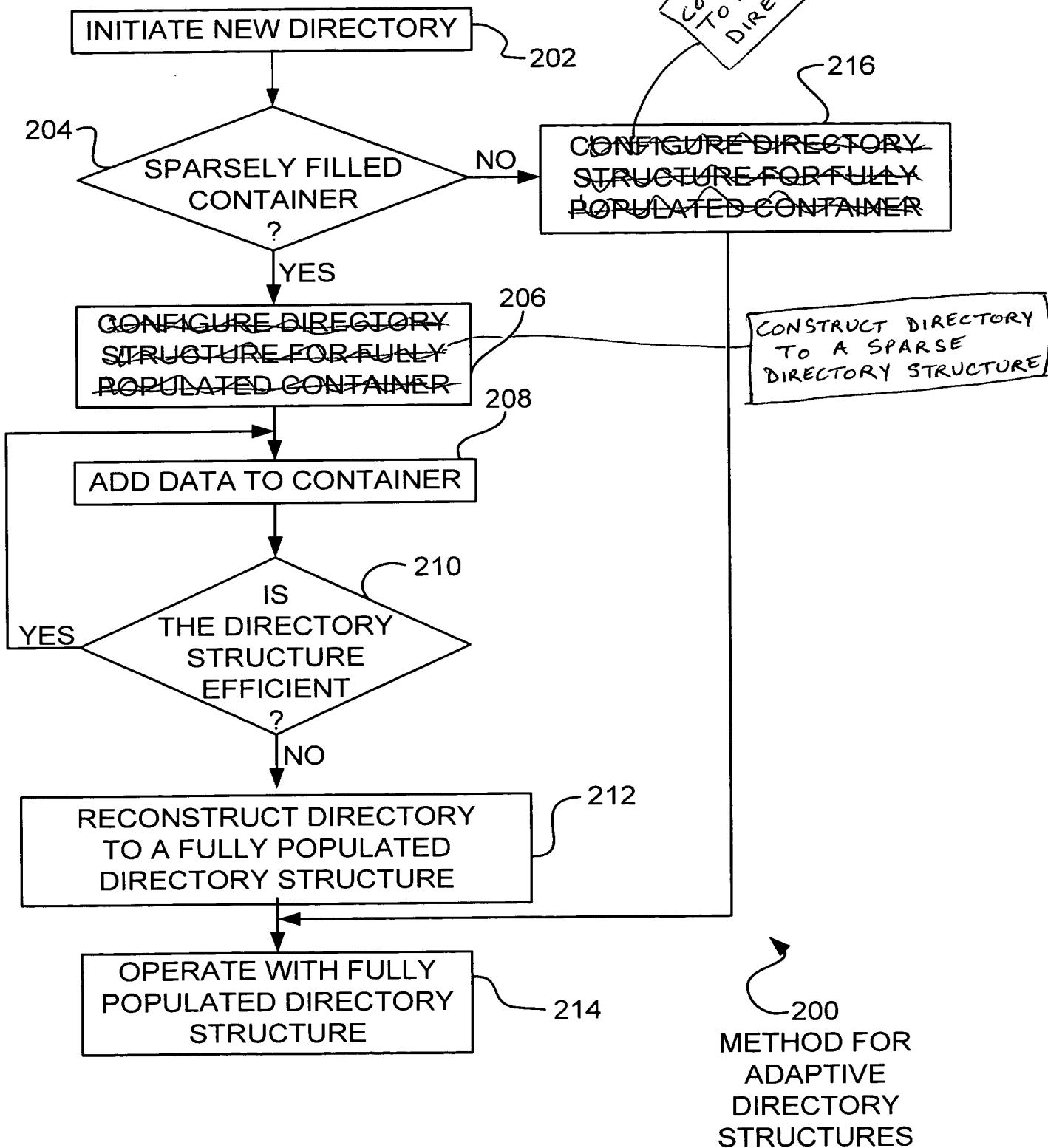


FIGURE 2